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Proceedings at Boston, May 19th, 1869.

The Society met at the usual time and place. In the absence of the President, the chair was taken by Prof. E. E. Salisbury, one of the Vice-Presidents.

After the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting, reports of the retiring officers were called for. The Treasurer's Report showed the transactions of the past year to have been as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Balance on hand, May 20th, 1868, - - - - -	\$1,259.60
Annual assessments paid in, - - - - -	290.00
Sale of the Journal, - - - - -	8.00
	<u>298.00</u>
Total receipts of the year, - - - - -	\$1,557.60
EXPENDITURES.	
Printing of Journal (ix. 1), Proceedings, etc., - - - - -	\$ 1,153.72
Expenses of Library and Correspondence, - - - - -	33.35
Paid for binding of books, - - - - -	13.00
	<u>\$ 1,200.07</u>
Total expenditures of the year, - - - - -	\$ 1,200.07
Balance on hand, May 19th, 1869, - - - - -	357.53
	<u>\$ 1,557.60</u>

The accounts were audited by a Committee appointed for the purpose, and accepted.

The Librarian made a verbal report, mentioning the principal donors to the library during the past year, and describing their contributions.

The Committee of Publication announced that the first half of vol. ix. of the Journal was out of the hands of the printer, and ready for delivery to the Members. It was hoped that the other half-volume would be published by the time of the next annual meeting.

The Directors gave notice that they had appointed the autumn meeting to be held in New Haven, on the 20th of October next, unless the Committee of Arrangements should see reason for changing the day:* that committee was composed of Prof. Chas. Short of New York, with the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries.

Further, they recommended to the Society the Election as Corporate Members of

* The day was in fact changed, and the meeting took place on Thursday, the 21st.

Prof. Theophilus Parsons, LL.D., of Cambridge, Mass.
 Prof. Edward J. Young, of Cambridge, Mass.
 Rev. Kinsley Twining, of Cambridge, Mass.
 Col. Thomas W. Higginson, of Newport, R. I.
 Prof. Frederic Gardiner, D.D., of Middletown, Conn.
 Mr. Francis P. Nash, of New York.
 Prof. George L. Cary, of Meadville, Pa.

and the transfer, from the list of Corresponding to that of Honorary Members, of the names of Hermann Brockhaus, Gustav Flügel, Adalbert Kuhn, Max Müller, John Muir, Adolphe Regnier, Ernest Renan, Rudolf Roth, Friedrich Spiegel, Constantin Tischendorf, and Albrecht Weber. These recommendations were, by ballot and vote, duly accepted and adopted by the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary called attention to the decease within the year of two of the Corporate Members, Rev. Swan L. Pomroy, D.D., of Portland, Me., and Prof. John J. Owen, D.D., of New York, for many years a Director of the Society. Dr. Proud-fit, being called upon, paid an appropriate tribute to the character of Dr. Owen.

The correspondence of the past six months was laid upon the table, and extracts from it were read. Of most interest were a letter from Mr. Alexander J. Ellis, of London, in reference to Bell's system of "Visible Speech" (criticised in a communication presented to the Society at the preceding annual meeting: see the Proceedings of that meeting), expressing and explaining his high opinion of the system; and a letter from Prof. B. Jülz, of Innsbruck (in the Tyrol), from which the following is an extract:

"In 1866 I published (at Brockhaus's in Leipzig) the *Tales of the Siddhi-Kür* in the Kalmuck language, and, in 1868 (at Wagner's, Innsbruck) the supplementary tales to the *Siddhi-Kür* and the *History of Arji-Borji-Chán* in Mongolian. Although I received from the Vienna Academy a subsidy toward the expense of publication, I was obliged to add a very considerable sum out of my own pocket, which can only be covered by sale of the volumes. Of scholars interested in this special department there are but few, and the sale is almost exclusively to the larger libraries, so that I am very far from being reimbursed as yet. Hardly a copy has hitherto gone to America; and I beg that you will use your influence to have at least the original edition in Kalmuck and Mongolian procured by one and another College or University or other public library, where philological studies are pursued."

The Corresponding Secretary commended the works in question to the attention of the members present, as contributions of great and acknowledged importance to an interesting and little cultivated branch of linguistics.

The following gentlemen were next chosen by ballot, upon nomination of a special committee appointed for the purpose, as officers of the Society for the ensuing year:

President—Pres. T. D. WOOLSEY, D.D., LL.D., of New Haven.
Vice-Presidents { Rev. RUFUS ANDERSON, D.D., " Boston.
 { Hon. PETER PARKER, M.D., " Washington.
 { Prof. EDW. E. SALISBURY, LL.D., " New Haven.
Corresp. Secretary—Prof. W. D. WHITNEY, Ph.D., " New Haven.

<i>Sec. of Class. Section</i>	—Prof. JAMES HADLEY, LL.D.,	“ New Haven.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	—EZRA ABBOT, LL.D.,	“ Cambridge.
<i>Treasurer</i>	—Prof. D. C. GILMAN,	“ New Haven.
<i>Librarian</i>	—Prof. W. D. WHITNEY,	“ New Haven.
<i>Directors</i>	Mr. A. I. COTHEAL,	“ New York.
	Prof. W. W. GOODWIN, Ph.D.,	“ Cambridge.
	Prof. W. H. GREEN, D.D.,	“ Princeton.
	Prof. A. P. PEABODY, D.D.,	“ Cambridge.
	Dr. CHARLES PICKERING,	“ Boston.
	Prof. JOHN PROUDFIT, D.D.,	“ New York.
	Prof. CHARLES SHORT, LL.D.,	“ New York.

The following communications were then presented :

1. On Early Inventions of the Chinese; by Rev. Prof. W. A. P. Martin, of Peking.

Dr. Martin spoke of the various inventions, or discoveries, or applications of the resources of nature, in which China has preceded the rest of mankind, and the knowledge of which has, either demonstrably or probably, found its way to the western world from China. He first referred to tea, as an important contribution to human comfort, and the chief staple of a commerce which has led to important political results. Porcelain and silk were made only in China, until Europe learned to rival or surpass its teachers in these arts. Gunpowder is probably Chinese. The discovery of America is in a double sense owing to China, as the wealth of Cathay attracted Columbus westward, and the magnetic needle, which had been used in China for more than two thousand years, directed his course. Paper-making the Chinese invented in the first century of our era, and printing at least eight hundred years before its reinvention in Germany. Inoculation for the small-pox they had long practised before Europe learned it from the Turks, to whom it had probably found its way from the extreme East. And alchemy, the forerunner of chemistry, was pursued in China, before the Christian era, for the same objects which the early alchemists learned from the Arabs to seek after. The Chinese of the present day have ceased to invent; and while, a few centuries ago, they were in advance of all the rest of the world in the arts of civilized life, they are now, simply by having ceased to progress, as far behind the most civilized nations. Their stagnation is to be in the main attributed to their reverence for ancient times, their absorption in the study of language, literature, and antiquity, with consequent neglect of physical science, and the absence of Christianity.

2. On a Hebrew MS. of the Pentateuch, from the Jewish Congregation at Kai-fung-fu in China, by Mr. John W. Barrow of New York; presented by Dr. Martin.

This is a synagogue roll, written on 112 skins of white leather, in 237 columns, of 49 lines each; it measures 143 feet in length. The skins are in two or three places put together in the wrong order, and one passage, from Exodus xxxviii. 18 to Leviticus i. 6, is wanting. They are generally in good condition, but a little water-stained. The character is clear and legible, though not elegant, and approaches the Spanish type. The text is the Masoretic, and the deviations from the received text are almost entirely mere errors in spelling. The original of which this is a representation must evidently have been of European and comparatively modern origin.

In the 26th chapter of Davidson's "Biblical Criticism" (ed. 1866, pp. 366-70), reference is made to the collation of another synagogue roll from the same source, with similar results. Dr. Lee, in the "Prolegomena in Biblia Polyglotta Londinensia Minora," gives extracts from Koegler's "Notitiæ S.S. Bibliorum Judeæorum in Imperio Sinensi" (Halle, 1805), in which the Kai-fung-fu manuscripts are discussed.

Appended to Mr. Barrow's paper was a detailed conspectus of the various readings of the MS. in question, as compared with the received text.

After reading this paper, Dr. Martin gave, by request, an account of his journey to Kai-fung-fu, his intercourse with the remnants of the Jewish colony there (from whom he obtained the roll forming the subject of the paper), and the conditions in which they now exist.

3. On Ophir and Sheba, by Prof. Joseph W. Jenks, of Newtonville, Mass.

Prof. Jenks detailed the instances of occurrence in the Bible of the word *Ophir*, with their different orthography, and with their varying representation in the Septuagint. He briefly stated the views which had been put forward respecting the position of the country; and he proposed to harmonize their discordance by assuming that the Hebrew-Syrian fleet of Hiram and Solomon sailed through the Red Sea to rendezvous at some port of southern Arabia; that it there separated, a part going eastward to India, and a part southward to Zanguebar and Mozambique; and that, re-assembling in due time, and adding the valuable articles of traffic of Arabia itself, it returned to Eziongeber laden with the products of three countries. Sheba was claimed to be the region on both sides of the straits of Babelmandeb.

4. On Prehistoric Nations, by Rev. Ebenezer Burgess, of South Franklin, Mass.

This communication was mainly a defense of the current views of ancient history and chronology, founded on the Bible. It opposed especially the opinions of Mr. J. D. Baldwin, as set forth in his recent work entitled "Prehistoric Nations" (New York, 1869).

5. On the Hill-People of Kamaon, India, by Rev. J. T. Gracey, Missionary of the Methodist Board in Central India.

Mr. Gracey explained that what he had to say referred to the general population of the province of Kamaon, not to the Bhotiyas of the mountain passes, nor to such exceptional tribes as the Nathas. These people appeared to be destitute of legends or traditions accounting for their origin. They acknowledge but three castes, Brahmans, Rajputs, and a low degraded class called Doms. Among their peculiar customs is a game called *patharandā*, 'stoning,' in which two parties, of about two hundred each, pelt one another with stones, in a valley between hills, which are crowded with spectators; the players defending their heads by aid of a brass-studded skin shield. Polyandry is said to have prevailed formerly, but is now replaced by polygamy, and the marriage-tie is a very loose one. Among the divinities worshipped in the Hills are Goél and Sém, and the goddess Naini. Mr. Gracey gave some details respecting their worship, and related legends told of them. The people have an excessive dread of ghosts; those residing in the mountain passes are propitiated by the sacrifice of a bit of the clothing of each one who goes by.

A vocabulary of about two hundred words from the language of the hill-people of Kamaon, with their equivalents in Hindustani, was subjoined to the paper.

6. On the Competitive Examination-System in China, by Rev. Dr. Martin.

After briefly referring to the practical importance of his subject, and its bearing upon the question of an improved civil service in the United States, Dr. Martin began with speaking of the completeness and elaboration of the Chinese system, of the success with which it attained its object, the drawing in of the ablest minds of the empire to the service of the State, of the general capacity and culture of the mandarin class, and of the essential democracy of a constitution which neither recognized a hereditary aristocracy, nor left offices to be filled by the favorites of the Emperor or his representatives. The origin of the system is referred to the time of Shun (about B. C. 2200), who examined his officers every third year, for promotion or degradation. Under the Chau dynasty (about B.C. 1100), candidates for office, as well as officers, were examined in the six arts of music, archery, horsemanship, writing, arithmetic, and social and public etiquette. About the beginning

of our era, under the Han, candidates selected in the provinces for filial piety and integrity were examined at the capital in the arts above specified, and in civil and military affairs, agriculture, and geography. A thousand years later, under the Tang, the present classification of candidates and of officers was already established. Now, the subjects for examination are the same as of old, but, in accordance with the circumstances and spirit of modern times, the mode is prevaillingly literary rather than practical. The three grades of candidates are called *siu-ts'ai*, *chü-jin*, and *tsin-shi*, or 'budding genius,' 'promoted scholar,' and 'ready for office.' The trial for the first degree is held in the chief city of each district or *hien*; about two thousand competitors are present, of every age, and each produces a poem and essays on assigned themes, during a night and a day of close confinement; and the authors of the few best, about one in a hundred, receive the degree of *siu-ts'ai*. The holders of this title assemble once in three years at the capital of a province, and, after examination on a much wider range of subjects, in three sessions of near three days each, about one in a hundred is again advanced to the dignity of *chü-jin*. Each *chü-jin* is authorized to repair the next spring to Peking, to compete with his peers for the first degree, which is won by about three in a hundred. The successful *tsin-shi* has now open to him the highest offices in the empire, but begins usually as mayor, or sub-prefect, or sub-chancellor, to which place he is appointable by lot—if not first admitted, upon an examination presided over by the Emperor in person, into the highest literary body in the empire, the *Han-lin* ('Forest of Pencils'), or Imperial Institute. Once in three years the Emperor designates a *chuang-yuen*, or laureate scholar of the empire.

This system amounts to the most powerful incitement possible to study—more efficient, in fact, than common schools, colleges, and universities; and it wakes the most persistent and energetic labor, continued as long as the powers last. Of a certain list of ninety-nine successful competitors for the second degree, the average was above thirty years of age, while one was sixty-two, and one eighty-three. Nearly all who enter the first examination (many millions) devote their lives to education; and for readiness with the pen and retentiveness of memory are hard to parallel elsewhere. That their education is one-sided, devoted to words rather than things, exclusively literary and not scientific, the fault is not in the system, but in the national standard of knowledge. And the system affords the most powerful lever by which the standard might be raised and changed, under an enlightened central board.

In its political aspects, the system operates as a safety-valve, giving to those who are able and ambitious of distinction the means of receiving it legitimately; it affords a counterpoise to the authority of an absolute monarch; it makes administrators who understand the people whom they have to rule; and it furnishes an immense educated class who are interested in the permanence of existing institutions.

The strict standard of the examination has sometimes been lowered by allowing a greater number of successful competitors, and even, in times of special need, by selling the right to compete in a higher examination without having passed the lower; but, on the other hand, the purity of the system is carefully guarded, and a few years since the first president of the examining board at Peking was put to death for granting two or three fraudulent degrees.

In illustration of the style of the examinations, Dr. Martin gave translations of several examination-papers, or lists of questions given to the candidates to write upon.

After the reading of this paper, the Society adjourned, to meet again in October, at New Haven.